

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: SIR PATRICK SHAW'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY

FOR EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER

1. PETER CURTIS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF DFA AND DIRECTOR OF POLICY PLANNING, INFORXS ME THAT SHAW NOW HAS APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY AUGUST 12. SHAW HAS REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT TOPICS HE SHOULD RAISE AND GOA IS MULLING THIS OVER.

2. I EXPECT HE WILL BE DIRECTED TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WHICH INCREASINGLY CONCERN SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE. AUSTRALIANS ARE WORRIED BY WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO HAVE BEEN A MILD AND UNCONCERNED US REACTION TO INDIAN EXPLOSION. CURTIS TOLD ME DFA COULD NOT UNDERSTAND PRESENT U.S. OR SOVIET POLICY TOWARD DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION. DFA (AND PRESUMABLY WHITLAM AS WELL) SEES DANGEROUS DRIFT IN THIS AREA AND WONDERS WHY US HAS NOT TAKEN ENERGETIC LEAD IN REBUILDING SUPPORT FOR NPT. INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR GORDON JOCKL MADE SIMILAR POINT RECENTLY. BEHIND THIS OF COURSE LIES AUSTRALIAN ANXIETY ABOUT EVOLUTION OF JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN NUCLEAR POLICY.

3. SHAW MAY ALSO RAISE RELATED TOPIC OF AUSTRALIAN
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DESIRE FOR CCD MEMBERSHIP. THIS IS INTIMATELY RELATED

TO TRADITIONAL ALP INTERESTS AND TO IMAGE WHITLAM WOULD
LIKE TO PROJECT.

4. WILLESSEE' CANDIDACY FOR GA PRESIDENCY IN 1975
MAY ALSO COME UP.

5. I FEEL IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT SECRETARY RAISE
SIGNIFICANCE WE ATTACH TO DEFENSE FACILITIES IN
AUSTRALIA AS THEY RELATE TO GLOBAL BALANCE AND ARMS
CONTROL. I IMAGINE HE WILL ALSO WISH TO EMPHASIZE
CONTINUITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY DESPITE DOMESTIC
CRISIS. SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER RAISING NPW
VISITS TO AUSTRALIAN PORTS. IF LABOR GOVERNMENT
PRESSED FORWARD TO REMOVE POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO NPW
VISITS--WHICH IT HAS NOT DONE--THIS WOULD PROVIDE
TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED GOA ATTACHMENT TO
ALLIANCE. FINALLY, WE ARE SURELY FACED WITH FURTHER
DETERIORATION IN GOA POSITION TOWARD INDOCHINA ISSUES,
INCLUDING STATUS OF PRG AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
GKR. SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO RAISE THIS ALSO.

6. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF SHAW WERE
LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT U.S. UNDERSTANDS AND
CONTINUES TO WELCOME AUSTRALIA'S HRRE INDEPENDENT
STANCE BUT IS INCREASINGLY PUZZLED THAT NEW AUSTRALIAN
POLICIES SEEM SOMETIMES ALMOST GRATUITOUSLY TO
EMBARRASS HER MAJOR ALLY IN AREAS OF IMPORTANT
U.S. INTEREST.

7. WILL REPORT FURTHER IF WE ARE ABLE TO LEARN WHAT
INSTRUCTIONS ARE SENT TO SHAW.
HARROP

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